

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 096960

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM USNATO DAPTED APRIL 23,1977
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC, SECDEF WASHDC INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
JCS WASHDC, CSAF WASHDC, OSAF WASHDC, CINCUSAFE, USCINCEUR,
USLOSACLANT, CINCLANT, USNMR SHAPE, AFSC ANDREWS AFB MD,
ESD LG HANSCOM AB IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2369

SECDEF FOR ODDR&E/IP/TWP, OASD/ISA/I&L. SECSTATE FOR EUR/RPM.
CSAF FOR ATF/RDPW. OSAF FOR SAFRD. AFSC FOR SD. ESD FOR YWT.

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, OCON, AWACS, MILI

SUBJECT: NATO AEW - APRIL 22 NADREPS MEETING

REF: USNATO 2290 DTG 201538Z APR 77 (LIMDIS/NOTAL).

SUMMARY. ASYG LABERGE AND NAPO DEPUTY PROGRAM MANAGER EAGLET
BRIEFED THE NADREPS ON NATO AEW ON-GOING ACTIVITIES AND A
PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR THE FUTURE. THE BRIEFING WAS BASED
ON A PACKAGE OF MATERIAL PREPARED BY THE NAPO FOR THIS
MEETING; WE HAVE FORWARDED THIS MATERIAL SEPARATELY TO OASD/ISA
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AND HQ USAF/ATF. END SUMMARY.

1. BASED ON PRELIMINARY NAPO ANALYSIS, A FORCE OF 18
AWACS AIRCRAFT, TOGETHER WITH 11 NIMRODS, COULD PROVIDE
NEARLY THE SAME COVERAGE AS A 27 AWACS FORCE. SUCH A
FORCE OF 18 AIRCRAFT, TOGETHER WITH GROUND ENVIRONMENT
MODIFICATION, FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATION COSTS, WOULD

COST ABOUT \$1.915 BILLION IN JUNE 1976 DOLLARS. TO NATIONS OTHER THAN THE UK, THESE TOTAL ACQUISITION COSTS FOR A FORCE OF 18 AWACS ARE ABOUT THE SAME AS THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN FOR THE 27 AIRCRAFT, ALL AWACS FORCE, WITH UK PARTICIPATION. EAGLET EMPHASIZED THAT A FINAL RECOMMENDATION ON FORCE SIZE WOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

2. REGARDING THE PHASING OF NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS, DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF EARLY UK MONEY, THE FUNDING REQUIRED FROM NATIONS OTHER THAN THE UK WOULD BE INCREASED SLIGHTLY. EAGLET EXPLAINED THAT THIS EARLY FUNDING PROBLEM COULD BEST BE EASED BY CONFIGURATION CHANGE, INCREASED COMMON-ALITY WITH THE US AWACS, AND/OR BY A LOWER PRODUCTION RATE, ALTHOUGH THIS LATTER ALTERNATIVE WOULD INCREASE OVERALL PROGRAM COSTS SIGNIFICANTLY. EAGLET ALSO DISCUSSED PRELIMINARY NAPO ANALYSES OF BASING OPTIONS, MANNING AND LOGISTICS CONSIDERATIONS AND INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION.

3. LABERGE POINTED OUT THAT A US MOVE TOWARD COMMON-ALITY WITH THE NATO CONFIGURATION WOULD BE A VERY IMPORTANT COST SAVING DEVELOPMENT. HE ALSO SAID HE HOPED NATO WOULD BE ABLE TO ANTICIPATE THAT THE US WILL CONTINUE ITS AWACS PRODUCTION RUN THROUGH THE CURRENTLY PROPOSED LONG LEAD AIRCRAFT. ADDITIONAL US PROCUREMENT BEYOND THAT POINT WOULD ALSO EASE THE NATO EARLY FUNDING PROBLEM.

4. THE CANADIAN REP URGED THAT NATO NOT ABANDON THE CONFIDENTIAL

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JULY 1 DATE FOR DECISION IN PRINCIPLE AGREED BY MINISTERS ON MARCH 25. LABERGE SAID THAT SUBJECT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY PERMREPS AT THEIR LUNCHEON ON APRIL 19 (REFTTEL); AT THAT MEETING THEY HAD TENTATIVELY AGREED THAT A MORE LEISURELY SCHEDULE WOULD BE NECESSARY. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION ABOUT FINANCIAL EXPERTS' MEETINGS, LABERGE ALSO SAID THAT FROM HIS INSTRUCTIONS AFTER THE PERMREP LUNCH, HE UNDERSTANDS THAT PERMREPS AGREED THAT FINANCIAL EXPERTS' MEETINGS SHOULD NOT BE SCHEDULED UNTIL SOME LATER UNSPECIFIED TIME. COMMENT: LABERGE'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE RESULTS OF THE PERMREPS LUNCHEON VARIES FROM OURS. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT OF FINANCIAL TEXPERTS' MEETINGS AT THE LUNCHEON. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO SCHEDULE MEETINGS FOR LATE MAY OR JUNE IN ORDER TO CONTINUE WORK ON SOME UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS SUCH AS THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT COST SHARING, AND, AFTER A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL IS DEVELOPED, ON COST SHARING AND PHASING OF CONTRIBUTIONS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON VIEWS ON THIS MATTER. END COMMENT.

5. LABERGE SAID A DRAFT PAPER FOR DPC MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATION WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED EARLY NEXT WEEK. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY SCHEDULE ADDITIONAL INFORMAL NADREPS MEETINGS TO KEEP NATIONS INFORMED OF WORK ON THE PROGRAM.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.PEREZ UNQUOTE VANCE

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